

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the claims in order to reduce the initial filing fee by deleting the improper use claims and by deleting the multiple dependent claims from the application. Applicants retain the right to reintroduce any subject matter canceled by the present Amendment at any time during the prosecution of this application or any further application claiming benefit of this application.

Also, an Abstract of the Disclosure has been added to the application.

Applicants are submitting herewith a copy of the Search Report which issued on International Application No. PCT/EP00/05563, of which the present application is the U.S. national phase. All of the publications cited in the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. It is Applicants' understanding that, under the procedures of the PCT, copies of the cited publications will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office by the International Bureau. However, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if additional copies are necessary or would facilitate examination of the present application.

Otherwise, the Examiner is respectfully requested to return an initialed and dated copy of the attached Form PTO-1449 to confirm that all publications listed thereon have been considered and made officially of record in the file of this application.

Applicants understand that, under the procedures of the PCT, a copy of the priority document (9902410, filed June 24, 1999) will have been supplied to the U.S. Patent Office pursuant to Rule 17 of the PCT Regulations. It is therefore respectfully requested that the first Official Action in the present application contain an indication that the appropriate priority document is in the file of this application.

0926808

JC07 Rec'd PCT/PTO 21 DEC 2001

U.S. National Phase of PCT/EP00/05563

In view of the above amendments, an early action on the application is now in order and is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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0926808-122101

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HW

Marked-Up Version Showing Changes Made

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 4, 9 and 12 with the following amended claims.

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4(Amended). RT assay kit according to [any one of claims 1 - 3] claim 1, wherein the assay components are selected from the group consisting of the buffers Tris and Hepes, pH=7-8, the divalent metal ions Mg^{2+} and Mn^{2+} , the chelators ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid (EDTA) and ethylene glycol-bis(β -aminoethyl ether) N,N,N',N'-tetraacetic acid (EGTA) and, the polyamines spermine and spermidine, the Rnase inhibitors heparin sulfate and dextran sulfate, the reducing agents dithiothreitol (DTT), dithioerythritol (DTE), and glutathione, the salts NaCl and KCl, the stabilizing agents newborn calf serum (NCS) and bovine serum albumin (BSA), the detergents Tween 20 and Triton X-100, the deoxynucleotide triphosphate BrdUTP, the primer oligo dT, and the protective agent agents ATP, GTP and CTP.

Please delete claims 5-8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

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9(Amended). Method of qualitative and quantitative analysis of RT activity in a biological sample comprising the steps of using and following the written instructions for the RT assay kit according to [any one of claims 1 - 4] claim 1 for the determination of the RT activity in the biological sample.

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12(Amended). Method according to [any one of claims 9 - 11] claim 9 followed by evaluation of the status of a RT activity related disorder or disease based on the result of the analysis of the RT activity.